

Weekly Market Bulletin

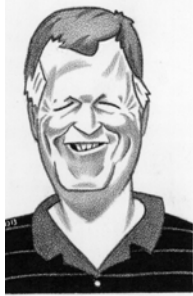
State of New Hampshire
John H. Lynch
Governor

Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food
Stephen H. Taylor
Commissioner

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From Your Commissioner...

New Charter School Offers Equine Studies

The first equine charter high school in the United States is set to open in Rochester. You read that right—it's a new high school that's been approved by the state board of education, and it's built around a curriculum of equine studies blended with traditional academics.

Between 20 and 30 students are expected to form the school's founding class this fall, and eventually enrollment is planned to reach the 60 to 80-pupil level.

Its formal name will be New Hampshire Equine Charter High School, and it will be based at the Myhre Equine Clinic of Rochester, itself a highly specialized animal health facility that offers an array of high-tech diagnostic and treatment services to horse and companion animal owners.

Dr. Grant Myhre is the director of the clinic, and he says the idea of a charter high school was brought to him by educators who saw his clinic as already having a tradition of providing educational services to horse owners, veterinarians and farriers.

"We have always done education, and as a referral hospital we're in a position to offer state-of-the-art facilities to support an academic program like this," Dr. Myhre says.

"The curriculum will be a mix of standard academics and the applied studies in equine science."

Students from the area will attend as public school pupils; those from further away will pay tuition.

The Myhre Clinic is also home to the New England Regional Veterinary Imaging Center, which is equipped to do nuclear medicine imaging, computer assisted tomography (CAT) scans, digital ultrasound and other modern anatomical imaging modalities, along with surgery, podiatry and physical therapy for horses and companion animals.

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Pardon us if things appear disheveled if you visit NHDAMF's offices or must wait a bit for calls to be returned. Room by room, the department has been packing up and relocating to temporary quarters while a massive asbestos removal project goes forward.

The entire five-story State House Annex office building is being cleansed in a project that will take several months yet still has to allow many critical functions of state government to continue uninterrupted.

Walls of the 1941 structure are getting fresh paint, and new carpet is being laid on all the floors, too.

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Maple producers all over the state have spent the last several weeks cleaning up fallen limbs and downed trees and repairing disrupted tubing systems.

Winds and heavy rains all fall and into the winter season resulted in considerable damage to main lines and laterals in many sugarbushes.

A heavy snowstorm on October when many trees hadn't yet shed their leaves caused considerable damage, too. But relatively little snow accumulation and extended mild temperatures in January have made cleanup work a lot easier

than it might have been.

Word from Vermont's Northeast Kingdom region is that damage to trees and to tubing networks there was as bad as or worse than what occurred in the great ice storm back in 1998.

The mess in the woods aside, the past year has been a great one for sales of syrup and maple products, producers tell me.

Steve Taylor, Commissioner